Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Prescription medicine misuse is so pervasive in the U.S. that it is called America's other drug problem; and,

WHEREAS, Nearly 2.3 billion prescriptions were dispensed last year at an estimated cost to Americans of $23 billion dollars; and,

WHEREAS, More than half the U.S. population receives at least one prescription medicine each year, with an average of 7.5 prescriptions per person; and,

WHEREAS, Up to half of the medicines prescribed are used incorrectly, contributing to prolonged illness, avoidable side effects and interactions, and unnecessary hospitalization; and,

WHEREAS, Approximately 27 million Americans over age 17 are unable to read or write well enough to understand the instructions on their medicines; and,

WHEREAS, About 13 million children take medicines prescribed or recommended by a physician; and,

WHEREAS, Up to 500,000 annual hospital admissions relate to drug reactions; and,

WHEREAS, An estimated 20 percent of older people's hospital admissions and an estimated 23 percent of nursing home placements are due to problems with taking prescription medicines incorrectly; and,

WHEREAS, The National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPIE), a coalition of more than 240 organizations representing medicine, pharmacy, nursing, other health care professions, consumer organizations, government, industry, and voluntary health agencies is committed to improving the dialogue between health care professionals and patients about their medicines; and,

WHEREAS, The South Dakota Pharmaceutical Association, the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health support this national effort to promote the safe and effective use of prescription medicines, especially for the citizens of South Dakota and will participate with local public awareness campaigns and educational programs during October 1988 and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, The month of October 1988 has been designated as "Talk About Prescriptions" Month with the theme, "Communicate Before You Medicate":

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1988 as

"TALK ABOUT PRESCRIPTIONS MONTH"

in South Dakota, and call upon all citizens to observe this important cause by educating themselves about the prescription medicines they use, and by seeking advice from their doctors, pharmacists, nurses and other health care professionals about the medicines prescribed for them.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-Seventh Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Eight

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE